



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/525,834	04/04/2006	Katsuaki Suzuki	YH0019-US1	9543

7590	11/15/2007
Marguerite E Gerstner Tyco Electronics Corporation 307 Constitution Drive Mail Stop R20/2B Menlo Park, CA 94025	

EXAMINER	
DUVERNE, JEAN F	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2839	

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
11/15/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1, 4-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by JP patent Application 2002-255782).

JP patent discloses a current conducting terminal which is in contact with either a positive or a negative electrode of one battery (A) and in contact with an electrode of opposite polarity of another battery (B) for conducting current between the two batteries, comprising: one electrode (21 or 22) which is in contact with the either positive or negative electrode of the one battery; another electrode which is in contact with the electrode of opposite polarity of the another battery; and a conductive polymer (23) which is placed between the one electrode and the another electrode. The term “for” as recited in the claims has not been given any patentable weight because it’s narrative in form. In order to given patentable weight, a functional recitation must be expressed as a “means” for performing the specific function, as set forth in 35 USC 112, 6th paragraph, and must be supported by recitation in the functional language. In re Fuller, 1929 C. D. 172, 388 O. G. 279.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 2-3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP patent Application 2002-255782).

5. JP patent discloses the aforementioned limitations, but fails to explicitly disclose the arrangement of the electrode and the contacts. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to the electrode and the contacts being arranged in some specific fashions, since it has been held that rearranging parts of an invention involved only routine skill in the art. In re Japikse, 86 USPQ 70. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to the electrode and the contacts being arranged in some specific fashions in order to meet the system specification and requirement.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jean F. Duverne whose telephone number is (571) 272-2091. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00-7:30, Monday-Thursday.

Application/Control Number:
10/525,834
Art Unit: 2839

Page 4

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, TC Patel can be reached on (571) 272-2098. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

JFD

11/07/2007



Jean Frantz Duverne
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2839